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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To direct the Secretaries of Defense and Veterans Affairs to coordinate support for survivors of sexual trauma.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

M_____. _____ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To direct the Secretaries of Defense and Veterans Affairs to coordinate support for survivors of sexual trauma.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Supporting Survivors
5 of Military Sexual Trauma Act of 2020”.

6 **SEC. 2. COORDINATION OF SUPPORT FOR SURVIVORS OF**
7 **SEXUAL TRAUMA.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the
9 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretaries of De-

1 fense and Veterans Affairs shall jointly develop, imple-
2 ment, and maintain a standard of coordinated care for
3 members of the Armed Forces who are survivors of sexual
4 trauma. Such standard shall include the following:

5 (b) MINIMUM ELEMENTS.—The standard developed
6 and implemented under subsection (a) by the Secretaries
7 of Defense and Veterans Affairs shall include the fol-
8 lowing:

9 (1) INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE
10 ARMED FORCES.—The Secretary of Defense shall en-
11 sure that—

12 (A) information is posted in each facility of
13 the Department of Defense regarding services
14 furnished by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
15 to survivors of sexual trauma; and

16 (B) Sexual Assault Response Coordinators
17 and Uniformed Victim Advocates receive annual
18 training on resources of the Department of Vet-
19 erans Affairs regarding sexual trauma.

20 (2) COORDINATION BETWEEN STAFF OF THE
21 DEPARTMENTS.—The Secretaries shall ensure that a
22 Sexual Assault Response Coordinator or Uniformed
23 Victim Advocate of the Department of Defense who
24 receives a report of an instance of sexual trauma
25 connects each survivor to the Military Sexual Trau-

1 ma Coordinator of the Department of Veterans Af-
2 fairs at the facility of that Department nearest to
3 the residence of that survivor.

4 (c) REPORTS.—

5 (1) REPORT ON RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT.—

6 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
7 ment of this Act, the Secretaries of Defense and
8 Veterans Affairs shall provide a report to the appro-
9 priate committees of Congress regarding the avail-
10 ability of residential treatment programs for sur-
11 vivors of sexual trauma, including—

12 (A) barriers to access for such programs;

13 and

14 (B) resources required to reduce such bar-
15 riers.

16 (2) INITIAL REPORT.—Upon implementation of
17 the standard under subsection (a), the Secretaries of
18 Defense and Veterans Affairs shall jointly submit to
19 the appropriate committees of Congress a report on
20 the standard.

21 (3) PROGRESS REPORTS.—Not later than 180
22 days after submitting the initial report under para-
23 graph (2), and on December 1 of each subsequent
24 year, the Secretaries of Defense and Veterans Af-
25 fairs shall jointly submit to the appropriate commit-

1 tees of Congress a report on the progress of the Sec-
2 retaries in implementing and improving the stand-
3 ard.

4 (4) UPDATES.—Whenever the Secretaries of
5 Defense and Veterans Affairs update the standard
6 developed under subsection (a), the Secretaries shall
7 jointly submit to the appropriate committees of Con-
8 gress a report on such update, including a com-
9 prehensive and detailed description of such update
10 and the reasons for such update.

11 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

12 (1) The term “sexual trauma” means psycho-
13 logical trauma described in section 1720D(a)(1) of
14 title 38, United States Code.

15 (2) The term “appropriate committees of Con-
16 gress” means—

17 (A) the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of
18 the House of Representatives and the Senate;
19 and

20 (B) the Committees on Armed Services of
21 the House of Representatives and the Senate.